

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : B25C 1/04, A41H 37/02		A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/43781
			(43) International Publication Date: 8 October 1998 (08.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/05909		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 24 March 1998 (24.03.98)			
(30) Priority Data: 97/03847 28 March 1997 (28.03.97) FR			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SENSOR-MATIC ELECTRONICS CORPORATION [US/US]; 951 Yamato Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0700 (US).			
(72) Inventors; and		Published	
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GOUELIBO, Didier [FR/FR]; 3, rue de Bourgneuf, F-78720 Cernay-la-Ville (FR). DAMEME, Alain [FR/FR]; 10, rue Saint Nicolas, F-78640 Neauphle-le-Château (FR).		With international search report.	
(74) Agent: LEVIN, Nathaniel; Robin, Blecker & Daley, 330 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (US).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 3 December 1998 (03.12.98)	

A semi-automatic machine (10) for affixing an anti-theft device (1), such as an EAS marker, to an article of clothing or the like. The anti-theft device (1) is of the type made up of two elements (4, 5) that are to be snapped together through the article of clothing. Each of the two kinds of elements (4, 5) is stored in a respective vibrating bowl (14, 30) and transferred to an assembly station (P) by a respective vibrating conveyor (16, 32). One of the two elements (4, 5) is positioned on a working surface (S) at the assembly station (P). The second element (4, 5) is taken up by a snap-connection mechanism. A laser (44) provides a reference mark at the working surface (S) so that an operator can precisely position a desired part of the article of clothing for receiving the anti-theft device (1).

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.  
PCT/US98/05909

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

 IPC(6) : B25C 1/04; A41H 37/02  
US CL : 227/18, 119, 137; 292/318

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 227/15, 18, 67, 107, 119, 130, 135, 137, 156; 292/307R, 318

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
noneElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
none

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,090,652 A (SILVERBUSH) 23 May 1978, See entire document.	1-11
A	US 4,536,933 A (FURUTSU) 27 August 1985, See entire document.	1-11
A	US 4,588,218 A (GUILER et al.) 13 May 1986, See entire document.	1-11
A	US 4,605,150 A (IKEHARA) 12 August 1986, See entire document.	1-11
A	US 5,775,566 A (KOCHS et al.) 07 July 1998, See entire document.	1-11



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 SEPTEMBER 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 SEP 1998

 Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
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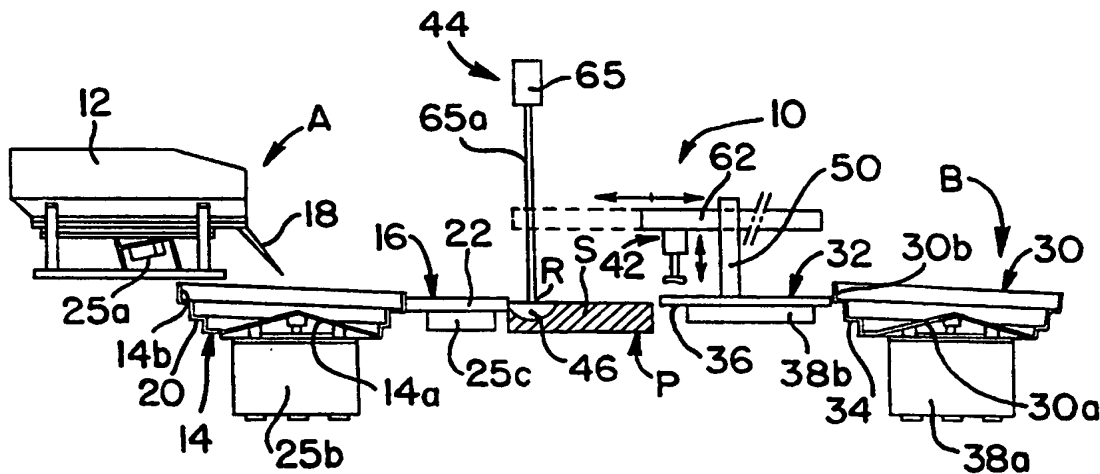
*Sheila Vence*  
Paralegal Specialist  
Technology Center 3700



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : B25C 1/04, A41H 37/02		A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/43781
			(43) International Publication Date: 8 October 1998 (08.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/05909			(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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(74) Agent: LEVIN, Nathaniel; Robin, Blecker & Daley, 330 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (US).			<b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
			(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 3 December 1998 (03.12.98)

(54) Title: SEMI-AUTOMATIC APPARATUS FOR AFFIXING AN ANTI-THEFT DEVICE TO AN ARTICLE



## (57) Abstract

A semi-automatic machine (10) for affixing an anti-theft device (1), such as an EAS marker, to an article of clothing or the like. The anti-theft device (1) is of the type made up of two elements (4, 5) that are to be snapped together through the article of clothing. Each of the two kinds of elements (4, 5) is stored in a respective vibrating bowl (14, 30) and transferred to an assembly station (P) by a respective vibrating conveyor (16, 32). One of the two elements (4, 5) is positioned on a working surface (S) at the assembly station (P). The second element (4, 5) is taken up by a snap-connection mechanism. A laser (44) provides a reference mark at the working surface (S) so that an operator can precisely position a desired part of the article of clothing for receiving the anti-theft device (1).

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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

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Date of mailing (day/month/year)

16 December 1998 (16.12.98)

International application No.

PCT/US98/05909

Applicant's or agent's file reference

C4-603 PCT

International filing date (day/month/year)

24 March 1998 (24.03.98)

Priority date (day/month/year)

28 March 1997 (28.03.97)

Applicant

GOUELBO, Didier et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

09 September 1998 (09.09.98)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

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Authorized officer

Lazar Joseph Panakal

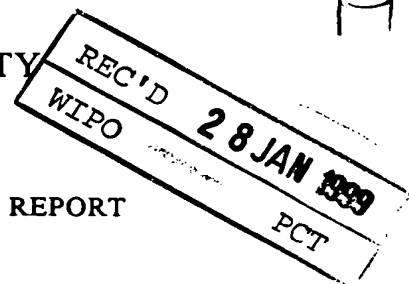
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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference C4-603 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US98/05909	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 MARCH 1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 MARCH 1997
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(6): B25C 1/04; A41H 37/02 and US Cl.: 227/18, 119, 137; 292/318		
Applicant SENSORMATIC ELECTRONICS CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 SEPTEMBER 1998	Date of completion of this report 17 DECEMBER 1998
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer SCOTT A. SMITH
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-2190

*Sheila Vercy*  
Paralegal Specialist  
Technology Center 3700



## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/05909

**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments):*

☒ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 1-10 , as originally filed.

pages NONE , filed with the demand.

pages NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

pages \_\_\_\_\_ , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

☒ the claims, Nos. 1-11 , as originally filed.

Nos. NONE , as amended under Article 19.

Nos. NONE , filed with the demand.

Nos. NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

Nos. \_\_\_\_\_ , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1 and 2 , as originally filed.

sheets/fig NONE , filed with the demand.

sheets/fig NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_ , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☒ the description, pages NONE .

☒ the claims, Nos. NONE .

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE .

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the ~~Supplemental Box~~ Additional observations below (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

NONE

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/05909

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claims 1-11 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an apparatus for securing anti-theft devices to clothing comprising a first and second magazine for first and second elements, and an assembly station including positioning and manipulation means for locating the elements and a sighting means for guiding an operator to properly position an article of merchandise. Further, the apparatus has industrial applicability since it can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----  
NONE